

STATINTL

Letters to the Editor

Ngo Dinh Diem

I cannot let this month pass without paying my respects to the memory of a brave man who died for his country a year ago — Ngo Dinh Diem, former President of the Republic of Viet-Nam. Events in Viet-Nam since his overthrow and assassination last November throw light upon some of the problems he faced during his eight years as president of that turbulent country.

His government's achievements under difficult conditions—schools, roads, hospitals, air-strips, land reform, the creation of defense forces and instilling the will to resist—still stand as major obstacles to Communist victory there.

The death of Ngo Dinh Diem casts a long shadow over his troubled land—a shadow which reaches far beyond his own country. But Diem was a patriot, and I am sure that his wish for his people now, as it was throughout the years I knew him, is for their success in their struggle for national survival, political progress and human dignity.

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